



The Village Official

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Farmers Market Opening
May 15

Community Yard Sale
May 18

EMS Week
May 19

Soap Box Derby
July 27

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Welcome!

Welcome to the inaugural issue of The Village Official, a publication of the Village of Trumansburg designed to keep residents better informed about issues and activities in local government and the community. Readers can expect to find updates on Village projects, notifications of any changes that might take place, as well as general items of interest.

As always, feedback is welcome! The Village Board is eager to receive comments, questions and suggestions regarding Village issues.



Village Hall - Main St

Trumansburg EMS

The Village of Trumansburg is committed to providing the highest quality ambulance service to its residents and those in surrounding areas. With highly trained employees and volunteers, the Village EMS (Emergency Medical Service) remains ready to respond efficiently and timely to your 911 call.

In 2007, the Village began a study into implementing billing for services provided by Village EMS. That process included lengthy discussions with the municipalities which contract for services with the Village—the

Towns of Ulysses, Covert and Hector—as well as interviews with billing companies and enlisting the services of an attorney who specializes in EMS law. The Village began billing for ambulance services within Village limits in mid-2011. In 2012 the Towns of Hector and Covert began billing for ambulance services within their own territories.

While billing will not offset the entire operating cost of the department, a significant portion of the Village's expenses are met by this process. For the calendar year 2012, the Village

received net revenue of \$99,998.00 from EMS billing. This represents half of the Village's portion of the overall EMS budget, a significant savings.

With continued growth in our EMS staff and the expansion of EMS services it remains the goal of the Village to provide the highest quality EMS service and patient care while attempting to manage ever-increasing costs. The Village also stands firm in its commitment to its staff to provide them with the management, equipment and training needed to provide quality care for all patients.



Mayor Petrovic

From the Mayor's Desk

It's an exciting time for all of us in the Village. Spring is in the air, the Village Yard Sale is coming soon, and the Farmers Market will be opening in a few weeks! The Board has spent a lot of time this winter analyzing and working on infrastructure and safety issues; from the need for a second water source, the functioning of the sewage treatment plant, to the need for more and better sidewalks. In late January we had the first of what we see as many State of the Village meetings to gauge our residents' view on a wide range of topics. The survey results from the issues presented at the meeting are now on the Village website. Thanks to all who took the time to come to the meeting and complete the survey.

The outcome of the meeting and survey results are being used by the Village Board to develop action plans. We are proposing to convene

several committees to advise the Board on two major topics: Nuisance wildlife and traffic/walkability. The nuisance wildlife that is of greatest concern is the explosion of the deer population over the past decade. From vehicle-deer accidents, extensive vegetation damage and even deer ticks that carry the threat of Lyme disease, many believe something must be done to curb the population. A committee will be formed and charged with developing recommendations for options the Village Board can take to address the deer population explosion.

Many residents have also expressed their concern about the safety of the sidewalks (or lack thereof) and the ability to cross the main roads in the Village. There are several approaches the Village Board is considering. We have asked the NYS DOT to conduct a traffic study at the intersection of Union Street and Main

Street with a possible outcome of a traffic light. We have identified three highest priority areas for sidewalk improvements; Lake Street and parts of both South Street and Whig Street. Our DPW is studying the three locations and will make a recommendation to the Village Board on the feasibility and cost of each location. Our goal is to do one or more of these sites this year as a community build project. We will need volunteers to help install the concrete, so please let me or the Village Office staff know if you are interested in helping with the project.

We are looking at other traffic and safety issues in the Village and will look to form a committee to study Village road speed limits, large truck traffic and road crossings. If you are interested in being a member of either committee please let me or the Village Office staff know.

2013 Budget & Organizational Meeting

At the annual organizational meeting in April, the Village of Trumansburg Board of Trustees approved the slate of appointed officers for the year, with little change from last year. In addition, the Board approved the Village budget for the 2013-2014 fiscal year which begins on June 1. The total budget for the year will be \$2,138,598.00, which is an increase of 7.4% from 2012-2013. The bulk of the increase is personnel and payroll related expenditure, as well as insurance and health benefit premiums.

To accommodate this year's budget increase the Board also, for the first time, passed a local law overriding the NY State mandated tax cap for the coming fiscal year. Beginning a couple of years ago, NY State re-

quired municipalities to limit annual tax levy increases to approximately 2% (the actual cap could be slightly higher or lower based on a complex calculation) unless the governing body were to override this requirement with a super-majority vote. The Village has not needed to consider this option as the tax levy remained flat in 2012-13 after decreasing by more than 14% the prior year.

Contrary to erroneous implications in some press outlets, this budget was the culmination of hundreds of hours of work over two months, and several special Board meetings. The Village Board always strives for fiscal prudence while maintaining high quality services across all Village departments.

The last portion of the annual budget that was addressed was the water and sewer departments. Water and sewer budgets are developed separately as they are supported by user fees, not property taxes. These two departments will be seeing gradual rate increases over the next few years, beginning with this budget cycle, as long-standing needs and improvements are finally addressed (see "Water Water Everywhere" and "Sewer System Update" elsewhere in this newsletter). It is the Board's hope and expectation that these fee increases can be managed in such a way as to keep overall user costs in line with the average fees paid for similar services throughout the region.

2013-14 Tax Rate

\$5.95

(per \$1,000.00 assessment)

Water Water Everywhere...

After nearly two decades, the issue of a second water source for the Village is finally being addressed. Many questions have been raised over the years about what the second source is, why it is needed, and where we are in the process. Here are some clarifications:

WHAT

A second source is an alternative water source to provide this precious commodity to the community. Our primary source of water is at Frontenac Point across from the Boy Scout camp. This site provides the most accommodating water source available. Frontenac Point is a ground water well from a gravel aquifer which has served us exceptionally well for the past 45 years.

WHY

Beginning in the mid-1990's, the County Health Department, under mandate from NY State, began to strongly encourage municipalities with ground well water sources to secure a redundant second source of water that was capable of duplicating or exceeding the production of the primary source. The Village's existing backup source is the "Hoffmire well" on Indian Fort Rd, which does not have sufficient capacity or quality to service this community in the event of an interruption of service – whether due to failure or routine maintenance – at the primary well. In the middle part of the last decade, the Department of Health began to issue warnings that a failure to come into compliance with this second source requirement could subject the Village to penalty. Since 2007, the Village of Trumansburg has been under a Department of Health moratorium which prohibits the extension of new water mains and the subdivision of building lots unless or until a second source with sufficient quality and capacity is obtained.

HOW

There have been several attempts to resolve this issue. The most recent was in 2010 when the Village re-examined the possibility of buying water from Bolton Point, via the Town of Ulysses. The primary concern was whether there would be enough capacity available to provide a

fully redundant source of water to the Village. After review with Bolton Point, which supplies water to Ulysses via the Town of Ithaca, it became clear that the capacity wasn't available due to expansion and growth on Ithaca's West Hill.

The Village was forced to move on and explore options at the Boy Scout Camp, drilling three test wells on their property. Unfortunately, these wells were not sufficient for development. At the same time,



the Village began talks with Taughannock State Park, which had drilled and developed a small well for their own use. Although the Park's well does not have the capacity to service our needs, the park was open to allowing the Village to explore for additional viable wells. These test wells have recently been drilled, with positive results, providing us with a second source development opportunity. Currently, the Village and NY State are in discussions regarding easements and leaseholds. Once resolved we hope to proceed with the development of the wells.

COSTS

How much will this cost? What will it do to my water rates? At this time, we cannot tell what the exact cost or water rates will be, however, the current project is estimated to be \$2.5 million. The Village adopted a bond resolution for this project on March 11, 2013.

FUNDING

Prior to the Boy Scout well exploration, we had submitted our projects to NY State's Environmental Facilities Corporation to obtain available grants or low interest funding to allay as much expense

as possible. We first applied in 2010 but did not qualify. After looking for opportunities to increase our "ranking", it was determined that by combining the Village's needs with those of the Park it would increase our rating and perhaps permit us to qualify for short term financing, lower interest rates and hardship financing. In 2012, we reached the appropriate rating to qualify. This is just the first step. We have submitted the completed documents and finished application and are anticipating an answer. The funding cycle from the EFC is lengthy so we will not have a response to the hardship funding request until late summer.

RECAP

The second source project is not an elective project. This project is an unfunded mandate of NY State, via the County Health Department, and no further development within the Village can occur until this is satisfied. There are many valid reasons to desire a secondary source of water, but it is specifically these State mandates which are forcing the Village to act. This is a lengthy process, but we are pushing forward.

DID YOU KNOW?

- All water department expenses, including personnel costs, come solely from water bill revenue. Village taxes are independent and do not support the water department, any construction, or regulatory requirements.
- When there is a water main break or a valve replacement on your line you may experience brown water for a short period of time. Please let all of your taps run for 2-5 minutes and it will clear up.
- The Village pays state and local taxes on any non-state lands outside of Trumansburg.
- A water main break page will be added to our website to display breaks that have occurred over time.

Sewer System Update

Waste Water management is not a popular subject. To clear the air and correct some misperceptions, the Village is, and always has been, in compliance with NY State DEC requirements. That does not mean that our responsibility ends there. The Village is taking steps to improve the management of outflows and the overall function of the treatment plant. Some of the measures being undertaken include:

- Smoke testing for identification of Infiltration Inflow.
- Eliminated bypass from headworks around plant.
- Eliminated bypass from final clarifier and Installed a new bypass to maintain flow through UV system at all times (continuous disinfection).
- UV sleeves changed and bulbs cleaned.

In addition, smoke testing, which identifies areas of storm water infiltration into the sewer system, will continue this summer. Further, the Village has contracted with an engineering firm to develop a report which will identify improvements

to the plant which could range from minor enhancements to a more significant rebuild.

Which leads to the question, what does my sewer bill pay for and why is it increasing? Your sewer bill pays for the ongoing maintenance and operation of the Wastewater plant, distribution lines, engineering, testing and personnel including benefits and retirement. It also pays for the outstanding debt service for any previous and current bonds.

The largest challenge for the Village is the relatively small number of customers that are bearing the weight of a municipal sewer system that has increasing costs, regulation and maintenance on an aging infrastructure.

The most notable budget item this year is an additional line item that will allow us to build up a reserve account to support future infrastructure maintenance (not including the actual plant). For over forty years, the sewer budget has held close to its actual expenses with no reserve for future major maintenance requirements outside of the plant. Being fiscally re-

sponsible is to plan beyond the next year or two. With the continued aging of the waste water distribution system we need to plan for replacements and set aside funds in advance of any major interruption.

As for sewer rates, this summer the rate for Village residents will be increasing \$63.75 to \$77.14. The rate for sewer customers outside of the Village limits will increase from 95.62 to \$115.70 per quarter.

DID YOU KNOW?

All sewer department expenses, including personnel costs, are paid for solely from sewer bill revenue. Village property taxes do not support the sewer department or any construction or regulatory requirements.

You can make a difference to the efficiency and operation of the sewer plants. Do not use the sewer system as a garbage disposal. Towels, rags, paper towels, diapers, Depends and the like have other methods of disposal. Using the sewer to dispose of these products can cause filtration issues and damage to the plant.

Zoning & Planning Board Vacancies

The Village of Trumansburg has two vacancies on the Planning Board and one on the Zoning Board of Appeals. The Village is actively seeking applicants to fill the vacant positions. Applicants must be Village of Trumansburg residents, at least 18 years of age, and should have an interest in participating in the Village's planning process. It is helpful but not required that applicants have some knowledge of the application of municipal law or other rules and regulations.

The Village regulates all land uses within its limits through its Zoning Law. The Village of Trumansburg adopted its first zoning ordinance in 1971, which has subsequently been replaced by a second

zoning ordinance in 2013. The current Zoning Law, as well as related documents and materials, can be found on the village website.

The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) hears requests for area variances, use variances, special use permits and interpretations of the Zoning Law. The Zoning Board is comprised of five residents of the Village, appointed by the Mayor with Board of Trustees approval. The Board has the authority to vary the strict application of the Zoning Law, consistent with the requirements of the New York State Village Law. Each ZBA member's term is five years. The Zoning Board of Appeals meets the third Monday of the

month.

The Planning Board consists of seven members, also appointed by the Mayor with Board of Trustees approval, who serve a seven year term. This Board is charged with the responsibility of reviewing land use and development issues, and approving subdivisions, site plans and special permit requests. The Planning Board meets on the third Thursday of the month.

If you are interested in serving on one of these boards, please contact the Village Main Office.

2013 Farmers Market

The Trumansburg Farmers' Market is going to be even more fun in its 2013 Season! First, the market season kicks off a little bit earlier this year - Wednesday, May 15. The season will run through Wednesday, October 30.

The Farmers Market has a terrific group of people selling on Wednesdays, from old friends to new folks giving us a try. A list of this year's vendors can be found on our website, tburgfarmersmarket.com

Another amazing lineup of guest musicians and performers is scheduled for the entire summer. In addition, we have a roster of brand new, fun things to do, from Circus Yoga with Amy and Sam, to a Shitake Workshop with Steve Sierigk, to



papermaking with the Veteran's Sanctuary to Bento Box How-tos with Anna Root. We have fitness and physical therapy and activities for all ages (most for free!).

We look forward to seeing you this summer!

**The 2013
Farmers Market
season begins Wednesday,
May 15 at 4pm!**

DPW News

The NYS DOT will be performing a traffic study at the intersection of Union and Main Streets as well as Main and Lake Streets.

Dial-A-Truck is available by calling 387-5618. This service provides a dump truck for yard refuse, trees, limbs and grass only. The truck is parked at your residence and picked up at 6:30pm the following work day. The current cost is \$25 per use.

The Village has mulch and compost available for purchase. Fill out a request form and pay for the mulch at the Village office and it will be delivered at our convenience.

Delivered (prices as of 6/1/13):
Dump Truck \$50, Pick Up Truck \$35

Self pick up: Dump Truck \$35, Pick Up Truck Load \$25, 30 Gallon Garbage Bag \$15, Garbage Container \$2

Water Rate Update

What does your water bill pay for and why is it increasing?

Your water bill pays for the ongoing maintenance and operation of the municipal wells, pumping stations, water tanks, distribution lines and personnel, including benefits and retirement. In addition, it pays for the outstanding debt service for any previous and current bonds.

Similar to the sewer system, the Village is challenged by what is a relatively fixed number of customers paying for a water system with rising costs.

Last year for Fiscal Year 2012-2013, the Village was in a fortunate position to be able to allocate unappropriated water funds to offset an increase in our water rates. For 2013-2014, we do not have that

luxury as evidenced by the new rates.

The water rate increase for this year was allocated to the base rate only, and not the consumption rate. As of June 1st the base rate will rise from \$34.00 to \$46.00 for Village residents, and from \$51.00 to \$69.00 for non-Village customers.